



Professional Learning Package: Implementing Unit Starters



Module 2:
Refining Instruction
with Unit Starters
Learning Session 2a

Module 2 Learning Sessions

Session	Guiding Questions
1 ✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What growth did students make as a result of engagement with the Unit Starters?• What growth did I make as a teacher as a result of engagement with the Unit Starters?
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can I refine my instruction moving forward?

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Time: 1 min – 0:01

Script: “The first learning session in this module prompted us to reflect on what we and our students learned as a result of engagement with the Unit Starter. In this second learning session, we will focus more on action. We’ll talk about specific things we can do to refine our instruction moving forward.”

Additional Facilitator Information:

Group Norms

- Be fully present.
- Actively participate.
- Embrace collaboration.
- Keep students at the center.



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Time: 1 min - 0:02

Script: "Let's take a moment to review our group norms so we can all engage in a productive learning experience..."

Additional Facilitator Information: Add further group norms if desired

Learning Session 2

- Guiding question:
 - How can I refine my instruction moving forward?

Time: 1 min – 0:03

Script: “Please read the guiding question on this slide. Notice that the focus of this session is to identify concrete actions we can take to strengthen our instruction.”

Additional Facilitator Information:



**Mini-Session A:
Teach Another
Unit Starter**

Mini-Session A Learning Goals

- Plan and prepare to teach another Unit Starter by:
 - locating the resources;
 - utilizing the Unit Preparation Protocol; and
 - reflecting on areas to refine or extend as we move forward.

Time: 1 min - 0:01 (*Note the time resets at the beginning of each mini-session*)

Script: “In this Mini-Session A, we will plan and prepare to teach another Unit Starter by locating the resources, utilizing the Unit Preparation Protocol, and reflecting on the areas you might want to refine or extend as you move forward.”

Additional Facilitator Information:

Locate the Resources:

- Link to *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee* Document:
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/readready/documents/teaching-literacy-in-tn/teaching_literacy_in_tn_update_4_9_18.pdf
- Link to Unit Starters:
 - <https://www.tn.gov/readtobeready/just-for-educators/summer-learning-series.html#collapsea84e86e239c143598e716779710df143-2>



Time: 5 min – 0:06

Script: “Using your device, please locate the *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee* document and the Unit Starters.”

Additional Facilitator Information:

Planning and Preparing

- Obtain a copy of the Unit Starter you want to teach.
- Revisit the process that you completed as you prepared to teach the first Unit Starter.
- Utilize the Unit Preparation Protocol found in the Appendix of your Unit Starter.
 - Planning tool is located at the end of each unit
 - Example: Grade 1 Life Science pg. 61



Time: 5 min – 0:11

Script: “You will need to obtain a copy of the Unit Starter that you want to teach. Then we will revisit the process that we used to teach the first Unit Starter, utilizing the Unit Preparation Protocol that is found in the Appendix of each Unit Starter.”

Additional Facilitator Information:

Unit Preparation Protocol (Appendix A)

- As a team, complete the Unit Preparation Protocol for your next unit.
- As you plan, consider these questions:
 - What went well in the first unit?
 - Example: Text complexity, questioning, and tasks seemed to be more appropriate in my classroom.
 - What would we want to refine for the next unit?
 - Example: I want to figure out how to incorporate my foundational skills into my Unit Starter.
 - What supports do we need to make those refinements?
 - Example: I need support with how to make authentic connections from my foundational skills instruction to my literacy instruction.



Time: Time will vary based on the amount of time the group has to plan together. It is recommended that teams spend at least 45 minutes working through the unit preparation protocol together.

Script: “You will use the Unit Preparation Protocol to plan and prepare to teach this Unit Starter. In order to refine or extend your professional learning, consider these questions:
What went well in the first unit?
What would you want to refine for the next unit?
What supports do you need to make those refinements?
Consult this slide for some examples to get you started with these conversations.”

Additional Facilitator Information:



Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork